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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,383	08/19/2003	George Eckerdt	23712/111	6216

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Nixon Peabody LLP
Clinton Square
P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, NY 14603-1051

EXAMINER	
BATES, KEVIN T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,383	ECKERDT, GEORGE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin Bates	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 July 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-45* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-45* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to a communication received on July 12, 2007.

Claims 1, 15, and 29 have been amended.

Claims 43-45 have been newly added.

Claims 1-45 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maloney (6317044) (Applicant's IDS) in view of Shniberg (6801245).

Regarding claims 1, 15, and 29, Maloney teaches an asset management system (Column 10, lines 11 – 14) comprising one or more stations for receiving a tangible asset and a server system in each of the stations (Column 10, lines 11 – 15; Column 10, lines 34 – 37, where the remote computer is the station that contains a peripheral for receiving the tangible assets and has a server program on it to manage those assets), wherein the server system stores information regarding tangible asset transactions between the stations and the tangible assets in the asset management system (Figure 37E, step 660) and wherein the server system in each of the stations

independently determines whether authorization to access the station is permitted (Column 22, lines 25 – 34).

Maloney does not explicitly indicate a communication medium allows the asset management system to be accessed remotely via the communication medium by the server system.

Shniberg teaches a system for tracking objects that includes a remote tracking center that is located remotely from a local tracking computer that remotely communicates with the local computer for tracking information (Column 3, lines 28 – 35; Column 5, lines 12 – 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Shniberg's teaching to include a remote tracking center in Maloney's system in order to allow tracking of objects on a wide geographic scale.

Regarding claims 2, 16, and 30, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 wherein the server system permits the asset management system to be accessed based on one or more criteria (Column 22, lines 25 – 34).

Regarding claims 3, 17, and 31, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 2, 16, and 30 wherein the server system permits the tangible assets to be removed from the stations or replaced to the stations based on the one or more criteria (Column 22, lines 25 – 34).

Regarding claims 4, 18, and 32, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 2, 16, and 30.

Maloney does not explicitly indicate a remote system that provides the one or more criteria to the server system.

Shniberg teaches a system for tracking objects that includes a remote system that provides the one or more criteria to the server system (Column 3, lines 28 – 35; Column 5, lines 12 – 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Shniberg's teaching to include a remote tracking center in Maloney's system in order to allow tracking of objects on a wide geographic scale.

Regarding claims 5, 19, and 33, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 2, 16, and 30 wherein the one or more criteria comprises a user ID, a user password, and a user security access level (Column 22, lines 25 – 34).

Regarding claims 6, 20, and 34, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29.

Maloney does not explicitly indicate wherein the server system provides a remote system with the stored information regarding the transactions with the stations.

Shniberg teaches a system for tracking objects that provides a remote system with the stored information regarding the transactions with the stations. (Column 3, lines 28 – 35; Column 5, lines 12 – 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Shniberg's teaching to include a remote tracking center in Maloney's system in order to allow tracking of objects on a wide geographic scale.

Regarding claim 7, 21, and 35, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 wherein the server system stores information describing the asset management system, the information comprising at least one of an identity, a location and an installation date of the asset management system (Column 22, lines 25 – 34).

Regarding claims 8, 22, and 36, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 wherein the stored transaction information comprises at least one of a location of one or more of the stations where one or more of the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, an identity of the stations where the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, a date or time the tangible assets were removed, an identifier for each of the removed the tangible assets, and an identity of one or more users that removed the tangible assets (Column 23, lines 57 – 65).

Regarding claims 9, 23, and 37, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 wherein the server system stores alarm information describing one or more alarm conditions to be satisfied to trigger an alarm of the asset management system (Column 7, lines 12 – 17).

Regarding claims 10, 24, and 38, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 9, 23, and 37 wherein the server system sounds the alarm of at least one of the asset management system and a remote system upon determining that the one or more alarm conditions have been satisfied (Column 7, lines 12 – 17).

Regarding claims 11, 25, and 39, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 wherein the server system provides a remote system with one or more graphical user interfaces for accepting data used by the server system to perform

at least one of permitting the asset management system to be accessed, permitting the tangible assets to be removed from the stations, permitting the tangible assets to be replaced to the stations, setting alarm conditions, and storing information that describes the asset management system (Column 23, line 60 – Column 24, line 2).

Regarding claims 12, 26, and 40, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 29 further comprising a user input interface that receives user identification information associated with a request to access the asset management system (Column 23, line 60 – Column 2, line 2).

Regarding claim 13, 27, and 41, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 12, 26, and 40 wherein the user input interface further comprises an access control card reader, the requester identification information being stored on an access card that is coupled to the access control card reader (Column 22, line 1 – 3).

Regarding claim 14, 28, and 42, Maloney teaches the system as set forth in claims 13, 27, and 41 wherein the server system converts the requestor identification information from a first format to a second format (Column 22, lines 25 – 34, where the first format is data on an ID card and the second is digitally stored for user id/password check).

Regarding claims 43-45, Maloney teaches the claims 9, 15, and 29, wherein the server system in at least one of the stations monitors one or more environmental conditions acting on the tangible asset and stores information regarding the monitored environmental conditions which can be accessed remotely via the communication medium (Column 10, lines 20 – 21).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 12, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Maloney does not indicate that the server system in each station does not determine independently whether a user has authorization to access the station. The examiner disagrees, when you view Maloney, with the perspective that the remote computer is the station that has within it the server system to provide authorization to the clients for the tangible assets. Then Maloney teaches a station with a server system that provides independent authorization for users (Column 22, lines 25 – 37) where it shows that the remote computer performs all the steps of authorization without any requests to any other systems. That remote computer is also in charge of the peripheral that provides the assets to the users (Column 11, lines 11 – 15).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Bates
August 6, 2007

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER